

Phyllis

HOME AFFAIRS

The Free Democrats: a party in search of a liberal role

The strategy of the Free Democrats is full of shortcomings. It is half-eeked, not fully thought out. The party now has to pay for plunging into an uncertain adventure when it threw in its lot with the conservatives.

Poll shows that Schmidt is still popular

An opinion poll shows that former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is still far more popular than Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The poll, by Allensbach, shows that 75 per cent of respondents had a high opinion of Schmidt. Kohl polled 59 per cent to the same question.

Most voters under 30 for the first time have positive views about Kohl.

Others in the popularity stakes included Finance Minister Gerd Stoltenberg (55 per cent) and Opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel (53 per cent).

Franz Josef Strauss is at the bottom of the polls: 52 per cent had a poor opinion of him.

The poll, taken early in July, reveals that people are seeing the change of government as a genuine about turn: 53 per cent thought it was compared with 38 per cent who say that "everything is continuing as before".

In May, another poll revealed that only 40 per cent spoke of an about-turn while 43 per cent said that there were no major changes.

Professor Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, chief executive of Allensbach, speaks of a "slightly positive mood."

She also says that the assessment by the voting population is conflicting. The voters see it as positive that the state has become thrifter and that the public debt is being paid down.

But criticism prevails in the social and economic sectors.

According to Professor Noelle-Neumann, the respondents said that their own economic position had worsened since the change of government, that the jobless rate had risen, that vacancies for apprenticeships had gone down, that pensions had become less secure and that social justice in general had deteriorated.

When asked how they would vote if elections were held next Sunday, the respondents in the survey (held in July) answered: CDU/CSU 51.8 per cent (of the first vote under the German balloting systems in which voters have two votes).

In the general election in March the CDU/CSU won 52.2 per cent of the first votes.

The popularity of the other parties has also changed little since then.

The FDP, which received only 3.5 per cent of the first votes in March, would in the July survey again have captured enough decisive second votes to take the decisive five per cent hurdle and move into the Bundestag. The same applies to the Greens.

Dieter von König
(Kölnischer Anzeiger, 28 July 1983)

It cannot keep abandoning liberal principles or the public will ask itself why it gave them another chance in the election in March.

The party needs to re-examine its role in the light of the election when it was returned as the junior partner in the centre-right coalition, just as it had been the junior partner in the centre-left coalition with the SPD.

It is clear that the final painful moods of the disintegrating SPD/FDP coalition had spawned a wish for a strong conservative leadership.

But the voters also wanted a watchdog to prevent excesses in policy changes.

The policies of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt were widely popular, not only among Social Democrats, and the electorate wanted no abrupt change.

So the Free Democrats were sent back to the Bundestag. Their function there is to curb the influence of the CSU leader, Franz Josef Strauss, and to prevent the government from following purely conservative policies.

This is not new. The FDP function has always been to put the brakes on the senior coalition partner. They have also been expected to introduce liberal ideas into policymaking.

So with the FDP being expected to carry the liberal flag domestically and continue, with minor changes, the SPD/FDP policy abroad, clashes within the coalition are inevitable.

All coalitions have their clashes. But they must end before the point where the business of governing becomes jeopardised.

The Kohl-Genscher government began its work with this handicap. It was obvious from the start that there was no shortage of areas in dispute,

especially between the FDP and the CSU. In *Deutschlandpolitik* and foreign policy the CSU wanted a complete about turn. Genscher and his team had to fight it out to limit the changes. However *Ostpolitik* is no longer a verbal battlefield between the two. Not since Chancellor Kohl went to Moscow (which, says Kohl, paved the way for talks on agreements that had been put on ice) and not since Strauss arranged that DM1bn loan to the GDR.

There is, though, still plenty of room for dispute in domestic and legal policies. This is the domain of Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann of the CSU. The FDP had to relinquish this portfolio in the new government.

When they did give it up, they had little idea of the friction this would cause. Zimmermann is a tough fighter who seems to have reconciled his differences with Strauss. He is scoring one point after another, aided by the fact that Justice Minister Hans Engelhard (FDP) is not exactly a hail of fire.

This is why Liberal opponents of the about-turn like former Interior Minister Gerhart Baum have picked up the cudgels on Engelhard's behalf.

Baum's position in the changed FDP was not particularly strong. He had become something of a nuisance. But now he is suddenly seen as a useful helper.

But how long will Baum and others like him be needed? Until the Hesse election later this year when the FDP hopes to be returned to the State Assembly? Or beyond then?

What speaks in favour of the latter possibility is that the left liberal Baum and his colleague Burkhard Hirsch have been beyond picking chestnuts out of the fire for their still unstable party. They provide Chancellor Helmut Kohl

Crucial State elections for the FDP

abandon positions on other issues such as laws relating to foreigners and demonstrations.

If it succeeds, the Free Democrats are afraid that one day the electorate will regard them as redundant.

To try and head this off staunch Liberals like Gerhart Baum and Burkhard Hirsch, who rejected the change of partners last autumn, are again championing a liberal policy.

Bonn observers are pretty certain that they are not acting against the wishes of party Chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The unperturbed way in which Genscher brushes aside any suspicion that he has tired of his office seems to be genuine.

The man who last autumn strained his party to breaking point can now look back on a considerable success in consolidating it: the FDP has not disintegrated; it has, in fact, achieved remarkable election results. Moreover, the breakaway Liberal Democrats are only

just and the tide of resignation the FDP has ebbcd.

The fact is that FDP party quarters report new card carriers and opinion surveys show Liberals again have a firm base among voters nationally.

But at the same time there has been an unprecedented change in the party organisations. Seven out of ten FDPs have changed their leadership within a few months.

Genscher, who naturally says the party has weathered the crisis, reasons to throw in the towel.

Though the party headquarters that he does not intend to lead (now said to have 80,000 card members) for another ten years, he staunchly denies that the party is in any danger of disintegration.

But it does not deny that the party is in a state of flux. Genscher's deputy, Hans-Joachim Württemberg party leader, Hirsch, looks on with a steady eye.

However, if Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff, the strongman in the party, comes to the donation affair (there have been allegations of irregularities in party accounts) unscathed, there will be no end to the next in line.

Gerd Eckardt
(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 21 July 1983)

MINORITY GROUPS

Envoys on mission to Turkey

German politicians have been evading the Turkish issue for years. No member of the Schmidt-Genscher government ever went to Ankara to discuss problems involving the 1.7 million Turkish workers in Germany.

That is hardly something that can be blamed on the Turks who came to Germany in search of a livelihood.

Blame is to be allocated to it must be the greed of the Germans during the years of *Wirtschaftswunder*. In those years a Turkish worker could be bought for a headhunting fee of DM300.

After the Ankara putsch in 1980, Germany's political inactivity was excused on the grounds that there was a partial dictatorship.

The FDP now has to pay for its plunge into an uncertain future. It has lost its scope of action in the area of Turkish workers. There will be many who will swallow it if the CSU digs in its heels.

The envisaged new alliance between Richard von Weizsäcker, the Federal President, and Bismarck Minister Nordemann. And then came the Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

Each was undaunted by the prospect of facing 43 million slighted Turks. The press that regards Germany as a land of the blind in their own eyes.

Weizsäcker paved the way with his personal charm. He embodies the eyes of the Turks, he embodies the eyes of the Turks, he embodies the eyes of the Turks.

What embittered the Turks even more was that other European countries followed the German example and introduced similar visa requirements.

The Turks have few friends these days, and the fact that the Germans still rank among the best of them has done little to soothe their hurt pride.

This seems to be borne out by the casualness with which the Turks take German military and development aid for granted rather than appreciating it as an extra effort on Germany's part. This attitude has left even diplomats speechless.

There is yet another point that should be mentioned to illustrate the complexity of the problems Friedrich Zimmer-

"Out with the Turks!" A German TV team trying to capture the mood in an Ankara suburb reported fear-stricken people who were robbed of their sleep by the mere name "Zimmermann."

The Turkish press plays a somewhat problematic role in Turkish-German relations. It is obvious that criticism of the Germans has had the function of a safety valve since the military came to power.

The press can criticise the Germans to their heart's content — which they certainly cannot do with the generals.

Turkish intellectuals and journalists now usually cast furtive looks around them to make sure they cannot be overheard — especially when talking to foreigners.

One of the facts that added to the Turkish-German strain was Bonn's introduction of compulsory visas for Turkish visitors to Germany in October 1980.

The number of Turkish asylum seekers in West Germany (a freeze on hiring foreigners has been in effect since 1973) has dropped markedly since the autumn of 1980: from 57,000 in 1980 to an estimated 1,500 so far this year.

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Concessions

Continued from page 3

the imbalance in postal services rendered. East Berlin now unrealistically demands DM500m a year. It could well climb down a peg or two on this issue.

The GDR could also take a more flexible line at the talks on allowing the West to take over the ramshackle Eastern-run suburban electric railway network in West Berlin.

Agreement could also be reached on desalinisation of the River Werra once the *Länder* affected have decided how much they are prepared to contribute toward costs estimated at DM100m.

The GDR is already sounding a more cooperative note on joint measures to solve environmental problems. It might even be prepared to conclude a cultural agreement.

Joachim Nawrocki
(Die Zeit, 22 July 1983)



Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann signs the vital-visa law for Turkish workers. (Photo: dpa)

mann faced in Ankara: the Turkish government fears nothing more than the return of its foreign workers abroad. The absence from home of two million Turks is always taken into account when drafting the nation's budget.

With a 2.1 per cent birthrate and a real unemployment rate of 25 per cent, the Turkish rulers are grateful for every mouth they do not have to feed. The Turks' attitude towards their workers abroad is ambiguous, as evidenced by the word *Deutschländer* which the Turkish press uses when speaking of them.

The *Deutschländer*, the press says, are more skilled and more disciplined than the others; but they are no longer prepared to conform.

Turks who have stayed at home fear that the repatriates will strip them of the chance of a job.

Returning Turks still can claim social security benefits. If they did so, the Turkish government would be in deep financial water.

Social unrest would follow mass repatriation. In addition, many Turks living from money sent to them by their next-of-kin abroad would lose their income. Many Germans find it difficult to grasp how the Turks feel about their workers in Europe. They hope that these workers will pave and keep open their way to the West. Despite Atatürk's reforms, the Turks are not yet fully Westernised.

They dream of a Turkish lobby in the heart of Europe, a lobby every bit as powerful as the Greek, Polish and Jewish lobbies in America.

There is a good reason for the earlier German procrastination on the Turkish issue. Sheer size of the problem must overtake every politician — except Friedrich Zimmermann.

The energy and stamina with which he pursued his aims in Ankara could only be seen as hair-raising by any "decent" liberal. Yet it would be difficult not to be impressed by it.

From his vantage point of *realpolitik* there can be no room for sentimentality and regard for human destinies.

What he did in Turkey was to weigh mutual interests, those of the Germans and those of the Turks.

"We will try to steer clear of unfairness and seek solutions that will suit both sides. Our talks are meant to provide a calculable preview of events," a businesslike Zimmermann told his hosts.

There are two points he sees as particularly important when it comes to amending Germany's aliens' legislation.

First: he wants to reduce the age of children permitted to join their parents in Germany from the current 16 years old to six. The Turks vehemently oppose the plan. They would prefer Turkish children to attend elementary school in Turkey, not only because this is more comfortable for the parents if both are working but also so that the children will remain Turks.

Zimmermann countered this by saying: "A six-year-old child that starts school in Germany has a 98 per cent chance of finishing *Hauptschule* (a school leading to vocational training). This gives a Turkish child the same chance as a German of finding an apprenticeship and make his way. On the other hand, a child that comes to Germany at the age of 15, speaking no German, can only join the legion of jobless or become a criminal."

The second point concerns young second or third generation Turks in Germany of marriageable age. As a rule, these young people get their brides from Turkey. But Zimmermann wants to stop this for all but Turks who have become German citizens.

The minister quoted figures: there are 900,000 non-BEC foreigners under 20 in Germany. If only one out of three gets married, there would be an influx of 300,000 brides, of whom 200,000 would be Turks.

Zimmermann: "These are undeniable facts and the German people cannot put up with even more foreigners."

Zimmermann wants to achieve more than just stopping the number of foreign workers in Germany from rising. He wants to reduce the number by about 20,000 a year.

The divorced wives of foreigners in this country are to be sent home since their residence permits would lapse on being divorced.

"Come together, go together," was Zimmermann's terse explanation of the principle.

When a German journalist protested, asking him whether the women would be forcibly deported, he was told: "The position of a woman in Turkey is different from that in Germany. We want to go by Turkish custom."

Nobody before him had the courage and honesty to put it that bluntly.

Curiously enough, it was the Turks who first noticed this; and as soon as they knew where they stood with him they treated him with the greatest of courtesy.

This was evidenced by the size of Zimmermann's motorised escort accorded to him after the first day of talks (five cars and six motorcycles). Norbert Blum was escorted by one car only.

Like the Germans, the Turks have a weakness for strong men; and like the Germans, they can be extremely tough.

Perhaps Zimmermann reminded them of some of their own, ranging from Suleymen the Magnificent to Atatürk.

With their ancient instinct for power, the Turks also know who has the upper hand and who must play second fiddle. This became obvious during Zimmermann's visit.

He was therefore able to return home in the knowledge that he has made the Turks think.

And as to Turkish-German friendship, it is better not to talk about it at all. This sentiment was always greater in the Turks than in us. These ties have never had a solid foundation; but it is certain that the strained friendship did not receive yet another blow through Zimmermann's visit.

Nina Grunenberg
(Die Zeit, 29 July 1983)

INDUSTRY

Plight of steel gets worse: EEC extends output quotas

European Economic Community steel production quotas have been extended for six months until January 31 1984. An EEC Commission plan to cut production by another 27 million tons a year by 1985 has been approved by EEC industry ministers.

For six years the EEC Commission has been trying to bring some order into the steel market. It has introduced minimum prices, production quotas and developed an almost perfect verification system, complete with edifice fines. But success has been modest.

Nobody doubts that without these central planning measures the steel industry could not get back on its feet. Every steelmaker would expand output. A glut would force prices down.

There was a time when steel sales were expected to rise at the same rate as the GNP. The rule of thumb today is a ratio of three to one. In other words, if the GNP goes up three per cent, steel sales will be up one per cent.

Assuming a 0.5 per cent growth of the GNP (as anticipated for Germany), steel sales must therefore either stagnate or decline.

These changed ratios are due to a more economical use of steel in such key industries as the motor industry, shipbuilding, electrical engineering and construction.

These changed conditions were recognised several years ago, but it took a long time before governments and the industry were ready to act accordingly.

In 1974, the last bumper steel year with fully used production capacities and ample profits, the Community steel output stood at 156 million tons, of which the Federal Republic of Germany accounted for 53 million.

In 1982, the Community produced only 111 million tons, of which 36 million were made in Germany.

The EEC has for some years been trying to pare down production facilities and modernise what remains in a bid to change traditional steel industry structures.

The Commission reckons, about 50 million tons of production capacity must be shut down.

Some individual countries balked at the limits set for production up until the end of 1985.

Strict planning with its wide range of controls is an attempt to ensure an orderly retreat and prevent major social upheaval.

Several countries are finding the cutbacks extremely painful. They have no replacement jobs.

They regarded their ill-advised system of steel subsidies as the logical answer. But the effects have been disastrous.

Major producers used the subsidies to offset losses instead of investing in modernisation and the creation of other jobs.

They were therefore able to sell steel below cost and thus maintain or even slightly increase their payrolls.

There will be no improvement until surplus capacities have been permanently scrapped.

The panel of three steel experts presented its recommendations in January,

but so far the advice has not been acted on.

The suggested "Ruhr group of steel-makers" (consisting of Hoesch, Peine-Salzgitter and Klöckner) was rejected even before being thoroughly discussed. True, Hoesch and Salzgitter have reached a loose cooperation agreement in which they are even prepared to include Arbed Saarstahl, but nothing is known of any concrete proposals.

There are those who believe that the panel's proposals have ended up in the waste basket while others hope that at least the "Rhine group of steelmakers" (Thyssen and Krupp-Stahl) could still come into being.

But the prospects are slim, allegedly because of Krupp-Stahl's excessive debt. Even the special steel merger of Thyssen and Krupp seems unlikely to materialise.

Yet the scheme had progressed to the point where even the name of the new company had already been agreed on (Deutsche Edeltahlwerke AG). It was also agreed that each of the two companies would hold a 50 per cent equity.

But Krupp wants "all or nothing": unless the mass steel production facilities along the Lower Rhine also merge there is to be no merger of their special steel subsidiaries either.

North Rhine-Westphalia's Economic Affairs Minister Reimut Jochimsen suspects that the whole ruse was just a show for the benefit of the public and that in fact the two companies never really tried to arrive at a genuine solution.

Each hoped that the other would be the first to collapse and that the remaining one would profit. If this were really so, it would have been a macabre game.

Some 260,000 Community steelworkers have been laid off since 1974 (65,000 in Germany). Another 30,000 German workers are to be laid off by 1985. This will bring the Community figure to more than 100,000.

But will this improve the situation?

About 17 million tons of coal is stockpiled in the Ruhr area alone. This is about a quarter of the annual production of Germany's largest mining company, Ruhrkohle.

The stockpile is likely to grow by another million tons this year, despite cutbacks in shifts.

Coal's misfortune is tied to steel's. Steelmakers are running at half capacity. They are using so little coke that mines supplying the Ruhr furnaces would have to cut output by eight million tons a year to avoid exceeding demand.

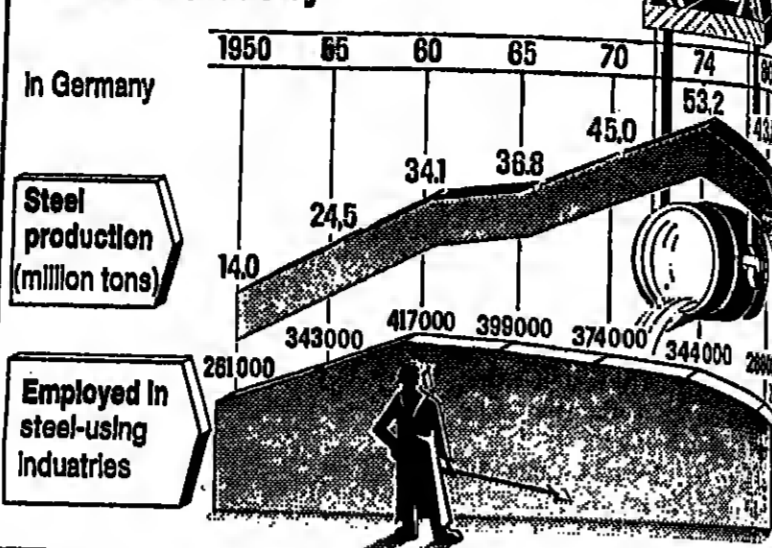
The board of Ruhrkohle AG in Essen is drawing up plans for mine closures. It is feeling the pressure of heavy interest payments while huge amounts of cash is tied up in the unsold coal.

The company's board is on its own. Neither the Bonn government nor the North Rhine-Westphalian Land government intend increasing subsidies beyond those already pledged.

Ruhrkohle thinks at the moment that production will have to be cut from 57 million tons this year to 52 million tons next year.

This would mean shutting down two

Ups and downs of the steel industry



The spectacular events surrounding Arbed Saarstahl have discouraged those who might have wanted to venture a forecast.

There are plenty of open questions: What is to become of Bremen's Klöckner blast furnaces, of the Maxhütte in Bavaria, of the Georgsmarienhütte near Osnabrück, of Peine-Salzgitter, Hoesch and the rest? Not all of them are particularly favourably located.

Will Bonn permit them to continue going it alone and subsidise them to the tune of DM3bn? Or will the Bremen-based Klöckner rolling mill (which has been hit hardest by the Brussels quota system) be divided up?

The Klöckner mill is undeniably one of the most modern in Europe. But since it was enlarged in the past few years it has been forced to work at only 50 per cent of capacity.

Klöckner has already been fined DM200m by Brussels for exceeding quotas.

There can be no restructuring of Germany's steel industry unless the Klöckner issue is settled.

Bonn still maintains that it is waiting for suitable proposals from the companies concerned, saying that the Economic Affairs Ministry will not present a concept of its own. It also excludes the possibility of nationalising the entire German steel industry or creating a lodgepole along Ruhrkohle lines.

The trade unions would welcome

such a solution but they doubt it can be politically implemented. The question is: Can Bonn make policy?

Klöckner has suggested that panel should pick up the pieces and work and come up with a steel concept.

Others hope that the Chancellor honour the promise he made last election and deal with the steel himself. But so far there is no hint of any action on his part.

The trouble is that the unemployed of the German steel industry could psychologically poison the steel industry.

But one thing is certain: the steel industry is not going to be a consolation for the unemployed in Germany. It is not a money printer, it is not a cure maker, no company and no electrical engineer can do it.

But by the same token, no steelmaker can live off this steel. The steel industry is a long-term investment. What Germany needs is a long-term investment concept and adequate earnings. Nothing they have been so sorely lacking.

Hans-Dieter Bremer (Bremer Nachrichten)

Mine shutdowns planned to cut overproduction

to two-and-a-half mines employing about 10,000 people. Another 10,000 jobs would be lost in the industries that supply the mines with specialised equipment.

The Ruhrkohle plans leaked out and caused much dismay — especially in Dortmund, Lünen, Bottrop and Gelsenkirchen.

It would be a political and social disaster if, on top of the 33,000 jobs expected to be lost in the steel industry by 1985, additional thousands of redundancies were created in the mining industry as well.

The unemployment rate in the hardest hit mining areas is already 15 per cent. So it is understandable that the shutdown of even a single mine with a payroll of four to five thousand must shock the affected community.

The North Rhine-Westphalian go-

vernment (which, for the first time in years, is a net recipient rather than a net contributor to the federal budget) is a net recipient rather than a net contributor to the federal budget.

Prime Minister Johannes Rau's Cabinet are particularly worried about the situation because of the state's due in 1985 when they will have to fend the last Social Democratic election in Germany.

Mine shutdowns of the past few years would strike to the very heart of the communities, because of layoffs. The tried and proven method of softening the blow by shifting workers to neighbouring mines or to premature retirement would not be enough.

Adolf Schmidt, chairman of the miners' union, without whose blessing the industry can do nothing, says that the industry can do nothing without the miners' union.

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THE EEC

ECU travellers' cheques? Certainly, sir!

The ECU, or European Currency Unit, came into being in 1978 as the European Monetary System's sole function was to be an accounting unit within the Community. It was never intended to be a legal tender. By pure coincidence, it is also the name of an ancient French coin.

Founding fathers of the EMS expected the ECU to gain any significance beyond serving as an accounting unit for fixing EMS exchange rates for settlements between the central banks of the European Monetary System.

In 1979, the Bonn Finance Ministry said: "The ECU is not classical money in the form of coins or banknotes. It plays no role in private or commercial settlements."

It is no longer true. Though there are still no ECU coins or notes, the unit has developed into a very special type of money, says André Louw, a Brussels expert.

The ECU is advancing on a broad front. In the form of coins or banknotes, it plays no role in private or commercial settlements.

French companies maintain ECU accounts and invoice their goods in ECU. Multinational corporations use the currency in transactions with their subsidiaries.

American firms do not bend in it; private investors buy the bonds and have their portfolios managed by Luxembourg banks.

As to the money front it is evidenced by the fact that four major French banks (Banque Nationale de Paris, Crédit Agricole and Crédit Commercial de France) are planning to issue ECU travellers' cheques.

The fact that a Danish savings bank granted its first ECU loans to private customers as far back as April 1979 shows the attraction of the ECU beyond Community institutions.

That particular bank grants up to six-

Being a basket of currencies, the ECU is particularly attractive. The basket is made up of deutschmarks, pounds sterling, French francs, Belgian/Luxembourg francs, Italian lire, Danish kroner, Dutch guilders and Irish pounds.

What each individual currency adds to the weight of the basket can vary depending on developments of foreign-exchange markets. But the exchange rate fluctuations of the EMS (which does not include the pound sterling) are limited and nullify each other during a limited period of time, i.e. until the EMS exchange rates are re-aligned. This is what makes the ECU exchange rate so stable.

Community institutions were the first to make use of this advantage. The BEC Commission and the European Investment Bank used a similar unit, the European Accounting Unit, for certain transactions even before the ECU came into existence.

All they had to do when the EMS and the ECU came into being was to switch their current accounts maintained with banks in the ten EEC member nations from accounting units to ECUs.

It was the EEC Commission and the European Investment Bank that spearheaded the introduction of the ECU in ordinary banking business.

When the European Commission commissions a research institute to do a job, the invoice is settled in ECUs, and the same applies to expenditures in connection with the European Development Fund.

The European Investment Bank floats ECU bonds and grants loans in the artificial currency.

Statistics compiled at the end of 1982 show that Investment Bank transfers to member nations and commercial enterprises in the Community amounted to ECU270m.

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Continued from page 6

cope with the social effects of mine shutdowns must be enlarged.

Schmidt has already announced that he would oppose the "total shutdown of a living mine," though he might not necessarily oppose partial measures.

He realises that his union can ignore neither the profit motive in a free enterprise system nor the fact that there is no public cash available.

What he has in mind is the possibility of closing parts of mines and the development of mine grids whereby the open-cast operation of one mine would be shut down while underground work would proceed at a lesser rate.

Some unconventional proposals have also been put forward, among them shorter working times for miners and a sort of "hard times fund" similar to that in the construction industry. This would amount to a pool into which all contribute and draw out if and when needed.

The unions and municipal policymakers have also called for curbs on imported coal to boost domestic production, export subsidies for the local industry and government subsidies for in-

dustry to a maximum of ECU20,000 to small businesses, artisans and farmers. ECU bank loans to private enterprises granted so far in the European Community are estimated at ECU400m. True, this is only a tiny fraction of overall bank loans, but the indicative things is that the amounts have been rising steadily. For instance, the Italian Instituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino granted an ECU30m credit (in lire) to the cities of Milan, Turin and Genoa in 1981. The bank itself raised the money on the Euro market. The French Crédit National was granted an ECU200m back-up facility for five years by a consortium of banks led by Crédit Lyonnais.

The individual portions of the loan were raised on the Euro market by a consortium of banks headed by Goldman Sachs, New York.

The ECU also comes in handy for governments and state-owned companies that want to raise money on foreign capital markets.

In 1981, Belgium's Kredietbank floated an ECU25m bond issue for Italy's state-owned telephone company SOFT. The issue was over-subscribed to the tune of ECU35m.

Apart from the Italian banks and companies accounting for loans to the tune of ECU105m, French government-owned companies also make use of ECU loans obtained on Euro markets. One of these companies is Gas de France which floated an ECU100m bond issue on the Euro market — until then the biggest single operation of this kind.

The Republic of Italy floated an ECU500m bond issue in 1982, of which ECU450m were subscribed at Italian banks in lire, while the rest was raised in ECUs on Euro markets.

That explains why the ECU has been seized upon for business transactions in Italy and France.

According to Dominique Ramburo of Crédit Lyonnais, Italian businessmen already finance one out of five export deals in ECU.

André Delvaux of Société Générale de Banque in Brussels: "There can be no more efficient hedge against exchange rate risks."

Multinational corporations are also beginning to realise the stability advantage of the ECU in dealing with their foreign subsidiaries.

The French Saint-Gobain company was the first to invoice commodity shipments within its own organisation in ECU, starting from 1980.

Saint-Gobain's finance manager, Jacques Ellet, says: "That was a startling move in the beginning, but by now it's routine."

The Lesieur group followed suit last year and is now increasingly trying to settle the invoices of its foreign suppliers in ECU.

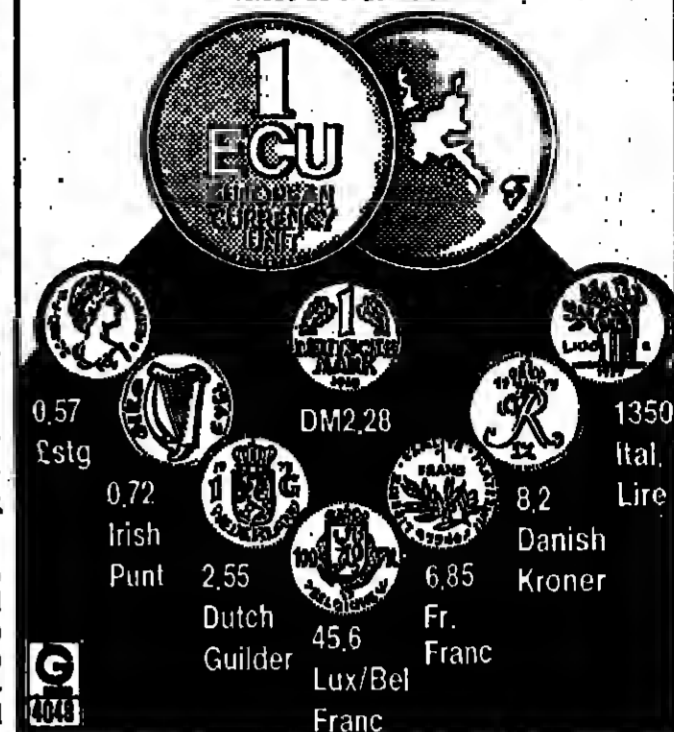
It is almost impossible to estimate the number of companies already using ECUs in their foreign business.

The number of companies that send a daily telex to the Brussels Commission to obtain the ECU rate, is, however, unlikely to exceed 200.

Frank Bünte (Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 17 July 1983)

Europe's currency — the ECU

European Currency Unit equivalent values as of 28.7.83



Even non-BEC companies like Quebec Hydro have meanwhile become aware of the ECU's advantages in long-term financial deals.

The European Atomic Community has borrowed ECU42m from Italian insurance companies. In turn, the insurers were permitted to offer their customers 15-year life insurances payable in ECU.

There are two reasons for the fact that the advance of the ECU has concentrated on Italy and France (and to a lesser extent Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark) while more or less skipping the Federal Republic of Germany.

For one thing, German banking laws preclude a more active ECU role as a currency (unlike Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and France which recognise the ECU as a regular currency). For another, the interest in the ECU is greatest in countries with weak currencies. It is only natural for those countries to be interested in the ECU's exchange rate stability.

This explains why the ECU has been seized upon for business transactions in Italy and France.

According to Dominique Ramburo of Crédit Lyonnais, Italian businessmen already finance one out of five export deals in ECU.

André Delvaux of Société Générale de Banque in Brussels: "There can be no more efficient hedge against exchange rate risks."

Multinational corporations are also beginning to realise the stability advantage of the ECU in dealing with their foreign subsidiaries.

The French Saint-Gobain company was the first to invoice commodity shipments within its own organisation in ECU, starting from 1980.

Saint-Gobain's finance manager, Jacques Ellet, says: "That was a startling move in the beginning, but by now it's routine."

The Lesieur group followed suit last year and is now increasingly trying to settle the invoices of its foreign suppliers in ECU.

It is almost impossible to estimate the number of companies already using ECUs in their foreign business.

The number of companies that send a daily telex to the Brussels Commission to obtain the ECU rate, is, however, unlikely to exceed 200.

Hans-Hagen Bremer (Die Zeit, 22 July 1983)

Some time ago a shrewd and influential Pole in a private conversation told the tale of a high-ranking Polish official who had visited the Soviet Union in the 1970s, when détente was in its heyday.

With reference to the Soviet arms build-up he had concluded: "If the West ever realises what is really going on there, it will be terrible for us all."

Terrible it has become, and everyone has made their contribution.

In the East the Soviet Union with its arms build-up has chosen to disregard the rules of the nuclear age, and no-one knows for sure whether the Soviet military-industrial complex is still politically controllable.

In the West the United States may have sounded the alarm but it creates as many problems as it solves, so hectic is it and the rhetoric of the US administration.

Western public opinion in general has undergone a change that fundamentally affects the framework of security policy decisions.

In the Federal Republic of Germany in particular the security policy debate has come in all hues, from provincialism to hysteria.

And that in a country the shape of which is of greater significance for peace and security in Europe in the years ahead than that of any other state in Western Europe.

So it is high time for a review of the essentials of security policy and of forces and trends with a long-term effect and to draw up new approaches for the future.

These two new books are compulsory reading.

No-one who works through these two

POLITICAL BOOKS

How the balance of power is becoming an imbalance

Uwe Narlich (Ed.): *Sowjetische Macht und westliche Vorherrschaftspolitik im Wandel militärischer Kräfteverhältnisse* (Soviet Might and Western Hegemony Policy in the Light of Changes in Military Power Relations), Nomos-Verlag, Baden-Baden 1983, 632pp., DM38.

Uwe Narlich (Ed.): *Die Einbeziehung sowjetischer Macht (Containment of Soviet Power)*, Nomos-Verlag, Baden-Baden 1983, 600pp., DM 38.

volumes (and work is the word) will find consolation in them.

What they have to offer is fundamental information, an unusually instructive, marshalling of the facts and a succession of brilliant realisations.

Much is new even for the specialist. Nearly everything is alarming and sobering. The two books are outstanding both in German and in comparison with literature on the subject in English.

They summarise the findings of several years of work by an international working party headed by Uwe Narlich, who has reaffirmed his internationally acknowledged authority on security policy.

His authors hold varied views. They are conservatives, liberals, Social Democrats and US Democrats, all acknowledged experts with a fund of knowledge that leaves them closer to the real world than to the ivory tower.

The US authors include Fred Ikle and Colin Gray, often dubbed critical

in Germany, but also Richard Burt and Henry Rowen.

The German authors, other than Narlich himself, are Lothar Röhl, with two extremely readable essays on Soviet policy and arms control, and Trutz Rentsch, with a thought-provoking analysis of peace ethics.

There are also articles by well-known foreign experts such as Headley Bull, Pierre Hasenauer and Johan Holst.

The analysis of conventional power relations in Europe between 1965 and 1980 by Philip Karber is centred on a carefully researched comparison of 10 key weapon systems in East and West.

It is one of the most illuminating articles on the subject published in recent years and gives rise to most alarming questions.

It shows that 80 per cent of the arms build-up in Central Europe since 1965 has been attributable to the Warsaw Pact.

It also shows that with one exception this gigantic output of arms and equipment changed the balance of power to NATO's detriment.

"Whereas the Warsaw Pact forces went into the lead quantitatively and achieved qualitative parity the tactical concept was changed from that of a defensive system to that of an offensive role."

The result, as Karber sees it, is that the West has suffered a strategic defeat in peacetime. His central thesis is one that German security policymakers have yet to think over.

It is that the Warsaw Pact is undermining the flexible response strategy by ruling out Western options both in conventional defence and in respect of the nuclear deterrent.

James Martin's analysis of the balance of nuclear power in Europe between 1970 and 1980 is based on equally conscientious research and is no less informative.

The Soviet Union, he says, has modernised its nuclear weapon systems over a lengthy period of time.

The facts could hardly run more counter to the alarming pictures painted in the Western public debate, which deals almost exclusively with future US systems.

A tenet that recurs and is backed up by facts and arguments throughout the two books is likely to give food for thought to both sceptics and supporters of détente.

It is that in the 10 to 15 years in which bi- and multilateral détente policy notched up their successes two trends occurred that moved in opposite directions.

Between 1968 and 1978 Soviet military spending increased by roughly 75 per cent, whereas America cut its defence budget by about 40 per cent in terms of constant prices.

The manpower of Warsaw Pact forces in Europe increased by about 150,000 over this period, as against a decline of roughly 50,000 in the numerical strength of Western forces.

On average, the increase in conventional weapon systems in East and West was on a ratio of four to one, and this list could be extended.

The overall tendency is upsetting because, first, the balance of power is steadily deteriorating from the West's

point of view and, second, so to wonder what aims the West has in mind.

This constantly recurring varied and enunciated in a number of ways, is that the fundamental aim is not the aim of capacity for the Soviet Union to wage war.

It is that a new political order in Europe is taking shape as a decline in cooperation between East and Europe.

In the process Western Europe is becoming increasingly dependent on the Soviet Union.

The role of military force, as pointed out with particular clarity, is increasingly being limited to the military political change in the West in Europe while providing a brella for Soviet interests in Europe.

The peace movement in Europe is an issue. It concentrates on weapons and largely on political context.

This is the crux of the matter. Some Social Democrats have roughed over the security policy in Germany.

It is not enough to argue that Social Democrats remain NATO. That is beside the point. The dual-track decision is a matter of whether the Federal Republic of Germany, in agreement with the Soviet Union, is prepared to resist Soviet claims to hegemony in Europe.

Those who surrender the position on this crucial issue of interest are indeed advocating Europe.

They are doing so by way of a flight to the Soviet Union, destroying the West's national identity by their domestic actions.

This new Europe is sold to the public by the views of political parties in the Bonn Republic have been agreed since 1960.

That is why why both book-length with arms control and negotiating policy (why it is and what it can accomplish).

Often one might wish that we were more keenly aware of the felt by the Bonn Opposition.

Doubters require answers, democratic security policy must be narrow majorities.

Many critics of security policy not to worry whether East or West is responsible for the arms build-up.

The energy and actionism of the generation for whom the power politics are merely a history books they seldom aimed at the West.

They clamour for the West's security policy and have no measure of success. Their demands far as unilateral concessions to the East and its hierarchical military set-up unceremoniously with their arms build-up.

If a security system is judged by length of time it has prevented then never in modern Germany has there been such a discrepancy between publicly-voiced doubts about security policy and its actual effect.

Differences of opinion that arise in the Federal Republic are many are deep-seated. It will be before the consensus ranges wide it does today once more.

The writer is Director of the Research Institute, German Council on Foreign Relations, Bonn, and Professor of Political Science at the University of Cologne.

7 August 1983
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RESEARCH

How a working day in space is spent

SONNTAGS
BLATT

Over 30,000 people went round the German Aerospace Research Establishment in Porz, near Cologne, on day last month.

More people than expected the German equivalent of NASA embarked the experts with questions.

Europe's Spacelab probably created interest. It is due to be launched the end of September.

Questions repeatedly asked were: good is it and what do the astronauts have to do.

A wide range of experiments is to be carried out on board Spacelab by the mission specialists during their days in space.

The range will cover astronomy and physics, plasma physics of space, astrophysics and terrestrial observation, medicine, biology and material research.

One of the four is the first West German astronaut Dr Ulf Merbold. His partner is a Dutchman, Dr Wubbo Ockels.

The astronomical and solar physics experiments, devised by French and German scientists, comprise extensive observation in the ultraviolet, including registration of X-ray emissions and special observations of the

plasma physics continues to concentrate on the Earth's magnetic field and its properties. US, French, German, Austrian and German experiments are planned.

Atmospheric physics and terrestrial observation have a direct bearing on the surface of the Earth will be observed mainly in German experiments, high-resolution photos being taken and charts and gain general information.

The information scientists have in mind is on subjects such as farmland, environmental influences, coastlines and snowfall.

Other photos, unspilt by cloud, are taken on well at sea are said to be of considerable importance and useful to meteorologists as an indication of wind directions and weather prospects.

Medical and biological experiments, including two German projects, will concentrate on man. The emphasis will be on space sickness, the influence of weightlessness on the body, circulation and other issues connected with space flight.

The most extensive experiments will be those in materials research and production in reduced gravity (at least not zero).

This sector comprises three dozen experiments, including 35 from Europe and 13 from the Federal Republic of Germany.

The equipment for the various experiments is in the materials laboratory on board Spacelab.

In reduced gravity the physical phenomena and properties of various materials (solid, liquid and gas) are to be put to the test. Liquids and gases behave differently on Earth, or at least in such a way that observation is either difficult or impossible. Liquid samples falsify certain effects on Earth because the liquid comes into contact with the walls of the container.

Samples of liquid can be suspended in mid-air, as it were, in reduced gravity, thereby making entirely new experiments possible.

The same is true of molten materials, experiments with which are falsified on terra firma by the effect of the container wall.

Such scientific projects in space may seem extremely abstract, theoretical or unrelated to anything specific. But most

are aimed at specific later applications. They may lead to the development of new materials with new properties. So these experiments could arguably lead one day to the construction of factories in outer space.

Experiments are to be carried out in a ground model of the materials lab to compare findings with those made in reduced gravity.

So many and such different tasks must be carried out simultaneously during this nine-day mission that each



Euro astronauts during training. From left, Ernst Will Messerschmid, Wubbo Ockels (Holland), Reinhard Furrer, Ulf Merbold. (Photo: DFVLR)

astrophysicist has been drilled repeatedly at the space simulation institute.

Drill has been indispensable because there will be so many and such different tasks to complete. But it is by no means ideal.

"Lunar missions," says a member of the Aerospace Research Establishment's staff, "would do well to reduce the variety of disciplines, at least for the next few years."

Gerhard Taube
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 24 July 1983)

Laboratory tests try to help the diver at sea-bed level

cause training is inadequate and partly because technically inadequate equipment is used.

A further cause is the unpredictable behaviour of the human body in such working conditions, as three examples should suffice to show.

In 1968, at the first German submarine laboratory in the Baltic, the well-known specialist in diving medicine Dr Horst Hartmann of the DFVLR died at a depth of only 10 metres.

A year later, when the submarine laboratory off Heligoland in the North Sea was inaugurated, two divers died at 21 metres.

Sealab 3, a US experiment also carried out in 1969, resulted in the death of an aquanaut at 183 metres. He was asphyxiated while trying to clear up a technical hitch.

The dead men were all free agents. None had a lifeline to a surface craft that might have been able to help.

Divers can only work as free agents at depths of up to about 400 metres after a period of adjustment in a pressure chamber and breathing a mixture of oxygen and helium.

"Divers live in large pressure chambers on board a diving vessel or a platform," the DFVLR aviation medicine institute explains.

"Pressure inside the chamber is equal to what they will experience at the depth where they are due to work."

"They are transferred in a diving bell at constant pressure and breathing the same mixture of oxygen and helium from the pressure chamber to the seabed and back."

"In work at depths of 150 metres or less, divers are often brought back to

the surface immediately after completing their mission.

"For work lower down the saturation technique is used and they can spend a fortnight or longer under constant high pressure either preparing for a dive, working down below or being gradually decompressed."

"The decompression phase can take two or three days. It may even last two to three weeks."

In 1966 conditions were simulated in Cologne for 12 days in a pressure chamber. Two men survived conditions at a record simulated depth of 220 metres.

Titan, the new simulator, is to aim at a new record depth of 1,000 metres.

Research will concentrate on testing oxygen mixtures for long-term use and on perfecting diving techniques.

Someone returning to the surface from conditions way down below will do so in accordance with a timetable drawn up by aviation medicine in charge of the experiment.

The deeper down he has been (and the higher the pressure), the more slowly he must be able to readjust to normal pressure.

"Titan consists of four chambers: a wet chamber, a living chamber, a bathroom and toilet unit and an access lock."

The lock is to permit access at high pressure so as to lend a hand in an emergency.

Professional divers should benefit from the findings. So should industry, which sets great store by both safe and economic diving.

Gerhard Taube
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 31 July 1983)

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■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Red alert for bird species facing extinction

Save the Birds was the title of a book by ornithologist Gerhard Thielcke and others. Published in 1978, it was long a non-fiction best seller.

The title was both a demand and a plea for help, and both are more urgent today than ever.

More and more species of bird are in danger of extinction, Thielcke and fellow-ornithologist Sepp Bauer say in a report on which the Red List of endangered species is based.

They work at the Radolfzell bird sanctuary of the Max Planck Institute of Ethology in Bavaria, where they studied stocks of endangered breeding birds in 1975/76 and 1980/81.

Their findings formed the basis of the fifth Red List of endangered birds that has just been published by the Max Planck Society.

It makes depressing reading. The trend remains persistently negative, although there has been a slight improvement for a number of species.

The latest species Thielcke and Bauer say is extinct in Germany is the white-eyed duck. They also report the virtual extinction of the black-browed shrike.

The only reason for not classifying it as definitely extinct is that no details are available of recent breeding trends in Bavaria, where it still sporadically occurs.

So it still leads a statistical existence on the list of species facing extinction.

Seven species are said to face imminent extinction. They are the dunlin, the wood sandpiper, the rock martin, the black-browed shrike, the black tern, the hoopoe and the dwarf bittern.

There has been a catastrophic decline

In numbers of the last three species, the two meo claim.

There used to be 238 species of breeding birds in the Federal Republic of Germany; 133, or 56 per cent, are now red-listed.

Twenty are extinct, 30 face imminent extinction, 25 are threatened with extinction, 23 are threatened and 35 are potentially endangered.

A particularly alarming point, says Rainer Ertel of the Society for the Protection of Birds, is that an increasing number of everyday species are now endangered.

The latest Red List includes the partridge as seriously endangered. "If the latest figures are any guide," Thielcke says, "it ought to be classified as threatened with extinction."

The tale of the partridge is exemplary inasmuch as it pinpoints many features typical of the decline in the number of species of birds.

Like many of its feathered friends it lives to wayside trees and islands of shrubbery in an increasingly monotonous agricultural landscape.

Farmers have cleared and drained its habitat to grow crops on fields and in meadows that used to provide the partridge with cover, protection and somewhere to seek refuge.

The uninhibited use of insecticides has also substantially reduced the stocks of flora and fauna that used to be the partridge's staple diet.

This highlights the ecological context. It took a much more widespread decline in the number of species of flora and fauna to condemn a given species of bird to extinction.

Surveys by botanists have shown that 72 varieties of wild flower have either vanished or are endangered as a result of human interference in fields and meadows.

"The superficial green of consolidated arable land is deceptive," says the



On the way out. The partridge.

Max Planck Society. "It hides a grey and unnatural monotony."

More vestiges of unspoiled natural environment are all that is left in the Federal Republic, the report says.

A particularly catastrophic loss from the viewpoint of breeding birds has been the disappearance of nearly all moorland.

Only about two to three per cent is said to be still in a state anywhere resembling the natural condition.

The destruction of stream and river banks and primeval woodland is no less catastrophic from the bird-lover's point of view.

Acid rain now threatens to destroy virtually every acre of woodland in the country. If trees carry on dying at the present rate about 60 species of wood birds will be in acute danger, Thielcke says.

Rachel Carson wrote her *Silent Spring* in the early 1960s, outlining a traumatic vision of a world without birdsong. Spring looks like growing steadily more silent, Thielcke and Bauer say.

Their latest research findings make her book seem prophetic 20 years later.

Horst Schilfmann
(Köln: Stern-Anzeiger, 21 July 1983)

Genetic pincer attack on the fruit-fly

A Gießen biologist has combined two techniques of sterilising insects in a bid to eradicate the fruit-fly.

The fruit-fly, an insect of the genus *Drosophila*, is a pest found all over the world, but particularly in the tropics, where it wreaks havoc on fruit and pumpkin crops.

In Germany it is keen on cherries. It lays its eggs in the fruit. The fruit-fly has proved impossible to exterminate by using chemicals.

Robert Steffens, 29, has been studying the problem for three years.

Since 1977, a genetic method known as the sterile insect technique, or SIT, has been used to stem the tide of fruit-flies heading north from South and Central America to the United States.

Mexican and US scientists have built a fly factory where about 500 million fruit-flies a week are sterilised by radiation.

They are then released to mate with fertile partners in the orchards. The eggs of females who mate with sterilised males don't hatch, so the insect population is reduced.

This technique has stemmed the tide of fruit-flies from Guatemala to Mexico, but it is expensive.

In Europe Professor Laven in Mainz

and a British scientist by the name of Curtis have developed another method discovered in Russia in 1940.

It is a genetic technique known as the translocation method and involves changing the chromosomes to produce a relatively infertile variety of fruit-fly.

But keeping the flies at bay is a slow process, and mass production is problematic.

In three years' work at Gießen University department of phytopathology and applied zoology Steffens has combined the two approaches.

Taking flies from a translocation line that are 75-per-cent congenitally sterile, he subjects them to a low dose of radiation that makes them 95-per-cent sterile.

This is such a high level that flies treated in this way no longer need to be specially selected before release, as in the case of insects made partly sterile by means of translocation.

His males are only slightly weakened by their minute dose of radiation and better able to compete with untreated males for the females' favours in the mating stakes.

SIT males are subjected to a heavy dose of radiation and are very weak, Steffens says, while the long-term effect of his combined approach is even more important.

His dual-track breed are 75-per-cent sterile congenitally, and this percentage is bequeathed to what offspring they sire.

So they keep the fruit-fly population down for generations even when very few or no new combined sterile technique insects are let loose.

His project is backed financially until the end of the year by the GTZ, a Bonn government agency specialising in technical cooperation with the Third World.

Steffens' technique is likely to undergo field trials in the Mediterranean next year.

His dual-track fruit-flies will be able to compete with untreated males and show how fast and permanently they are capable of decimating the fruit-fly population by genetic means.

Gesine Drogoschliars
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 July 1983)

Pollution goes to court

Atmospheric pollution deaths, both on the left and right, are the subject of several cases before the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe.

Environmental pollution, such as the subject of several cases before the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, is not only a matter of public health but also a basic right to life and property.

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HORIZONS

Jews and Germany: delving into unsung archives

Reparations payments is a term that sounds as though it might have been removed from the small print of insurance policy.

Idea of first exterminating an enemy (genocide), then making good by way of reparations, or Wiedergutmachung, to use the German phrase.

Legal terminology reparations are compensation. Anyone who has internment in a German concentration camp was entitled to DM150 for each year he or she spent behind barbed

reparations, such an inadequate sum, were introduced to amount to so much more. They presupposed, however, that the Germans were prepared to appraise their attitude toward the

there were so few Jews left after the Holocaust there was no immediate reason why the Germans should go to the trouble.

They didn't really want to know what had happened between the Germans and Jews. Which is probably why such a fessor of administrative law lodged their complaint, the kind, with the Karlsruhe court.

In their Neunkirchen Appeal after the town where the Federal and Land governments called on to undertake measures needed to reduce the atmospheric pollution fast and actively.

Frau Krons says this is a programme about which political action is possible. The state has a failure in averting danger to the

Appealing to the Constitutional Court is thus the last hope. The judges to require political action, she says.

Fifteen people have lodged suits, Professor Krons says. They include Essen parents whose children suffering from the pseudo-tuberculosis.

It is a convulsive cough brought by fits of choking. The parents blame atmospheric pollution.

Cases are backed by a trio of environmental associations that as such have no collective right of action.

In a joint declaration they demand that over 25 per cent of the town's population be moved out of how those who lived among us were either murdered or expelled have differed from us."

Renata Heuer has compiled her bibliography of Jewish writers in German head of the Bibliographica Judaica in Frankfurt.

It is a facility set up in 1966 at the instigation of the rabbi and writer, Eliahu Ben-Yosetz.

Whether Jewish beginnings were sound enough to lay the groundwork for any such edifice would depend in part on how Christians behaved toward Jews.

Asked when he felt able to visit Germany again, he said 1973. He had deliberately left it late.

But the Frankfurt archives are cataloguing for the first time bio-bibliographical data of many other less well-known writers and publicists.

About 50,000 names have so far been unearthed. Their Jewish origins, biographies and bibliographies are ascertained and documented as far as possible.

So are excerpts from their works whenever they appear noteworthy and the reception they and their works were given by their contemporaries.

The Bibliographica Judaica currently consists of 200,000 file cards, a collection of documents and photographs, and literary remains stored in shoe boxes.

The shoe boxes are a reminder that the archives' finances have always been shaky. The project would long since have folded had it not been for the missionary zeal of Frau Heuer.

She kept the archives going in the face of all difficulties. Her commitment is not personally motivated, as it were, inasmuch as she is not of Jewish descent herself.

The archives are housed in the basement of a house in the Frankfurt suburb of Westend. They clutter up two packed rooms, with just enough space between the filing cabinets for two people to sit down.

Frau Heuer pays the rent and expenses such as the telephone bill, typewri-

ters, paper and postage out of her own pocket. Her salary and those of two assistants are paid by the DFG, a scientific research organisation.

DFG grants are awarded for a limited period to a research director who is responsible for the project. Projects are usually carried out at university departments, where the interests of research staff and the project director are identical.

The department often takes the project over once the DFG grant runs out.

But the Bibliographica Judaica was virtually treated as a bee in Frau Heuer's bonnet and her personal hobby-horse, because it had nothing to do with a university.

Research directors were not widely interested in it, and in one instance the project director did it more harm than good.

The DFG grant scheme proved inflexible and a handicap. Renata Heuer as a mere PhD in German studies was on the lowest rung of the academic ladder and non-existent as far as the DFG was concerned.

Negotiations were invariably conducted with her project director, with the result that she had to go begging, submitting protracted and often fruitless applications for expenses to make visits to Prague or Vienna that were essential for research purposes.

Often enough it was less trouble, although more expensive, to foot the bill out of her own pocket.

Yet the archives already perform a public function. Staff increasingly receive enquiries from research workers. Hartmut Binder, the Kafka specialist, for instance, consulted the Bibliogra-

phica Judaica on Kafka's Jewish relatives and forebears.

Haodling such enquiries costs time and money, both of which are provided by Renata Heuer. The only accusation that could possibly be levelled at her is that she has paid too little attention to publishing and canvassing support for her project.

She has tended to go it alone in dealing with her life's work. But is it not asking too much of someone to be both a research worker and her own public relations officer?

Public relations ought surely to have been handled by her project director.

The DFG grant expires this year, and for a while it looked as though that

Continued on page 12

What Auschwitz remains a symbol of

Auschwitz remains for many Jews the painful proof that the Christian civilisation is not to be trusted, says a German-born American, Professor Jakob J. Petuchowski.

But, he told guests at a lecture at Saarbrücken University, discussion between Christians and Jews had reached an enviable level in Germany compared with America.

This was because of the guilt Christians felt about the Nazi annihilation of European Jews.

Professor Petuchowski holds the chair of rabbinical studies and Jewish theology at the Jewish Institute of Religion in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was born in Berlin in 1925 and escaped to Britain just before war broke out. His family remained in Germany and died in concentration camps.

Beginnings of a Jewish Theology of Christianity was his topic. The lecture was sponsored by the faculty of Roman Catholic theology and a local bank.

The aim of the partnership is to hold lectures on the social and political significance of religion today.

In view of increasingly inflexible religious attitudes in world hotspots and his own personal experience Professor Petuchowski outlined what can only be called a grand design extending into the theological future.

It would, he said, be a truly Copernican revolution in both Jewish and Christian thought if a Jewish theology of Christianity and a Christian theology of Judaism were to emerge.

Whether Jewish beginnings were sound enough to lay the groundwork for any such edifice would depend in part on how Christians behaved toward Jews.

Asked when he felt able to visit Germany again, he said 1973. He had deliberately left it late.



Renata Heuer... missionary zeal

phica Judaica on Kafka's Jewish relatives and forebears.

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Continued on page 14



Jakob Petuchowski... several titles available in German. (Photo: Schmidt)

He had suffered from a psychological block as a result of losing his family in Germany. He had not intended to revisit Germany unless the Germans themselves invited him.

He was first invited by a religious foundation in Freiburg in 1973.

Now he regularly visits the Federal Republic of Germany, where he holds courses in theology.

How does he feel about Germany today? "I refuse to generalise. My religion forbids me to make the children responsible for the sins of their forebears."

Continued on page 14

■ HERITAGE

Rules remain rules: strictly no hanky pankerei in the Fuggerei

The Fuggerei is a group of 67 16th century gabled houses in Augsburg containing 147 apartments. The apartments are let to the poor at nominal rents by the Fugger Foundation, which carries the name of three 16th century merchant brothers, Ulrich, Georg and Jacob Fugger.

German television is running a six-part series on the Fugger merchant dynasty. This has turned the houses into a major tourist attraction.

The gates to the settlement are closed at 10 pm every day. To enter or leave later, the nightwatchman, has to be paid 50 pfennigs (after midnight it goes up to 1 mark). The gates reopen at 5 am (6 am in winter).

Continued from page 11

would mean the end of the road for the Bibliographica Judaica.

Frankfurt University is short of staff and was reluctant to take the archives over because of the wage bill that might mean.

But the new project director, Norbert Altenbofer, a Frankfurt German studies man, has collaborated with Frau Heuer in drawing up proposals that could ensure the archives' survival.

A society of friends is to be set up to raise funds to pay the wage bill, which amounts to roughly DM160,000 a year.

The DFG would hand over to this society the rights it has in respect of the archives. The university would provide premises and to a limited extent meet expenses.

Hertwig Kelm, the president of Frankfurt University, is all in favour of this solution and says over the telephone he is confident the remaining problems can be solved.

What are still needed are patrons and sources of funds to ensure that the archives can carry on working.

After 17 years of collecting material the Bibliographica Judaica is in a position to work in public and start to probe more closely the history of Germans and Jews.

American research institutes and universities work along similar lines, relying on patrons. It ought surely to be possible in Germany too, especially in respect of something that has to do with Germans.

Ulrich Greiner
(Die Zeit, 15 July 1983)

Admission to this intact and compact little world is still free, the streets are clean and there are no souvenir shops.

What worries the Fuggerei administration is the very stuff the Fuggerei once used in their role as king- and pope-makers: money.

The Foundation is now in the process of systematically remodelling all 147 apartments.

What used to be the children's rooms are now to be turned into kitchen-cum-living rooms while the small kitchens will be converted into bathrooms, and gas heating will be installed. The cost per housing unit: DM180,000.

The Fuggerei is financed from the money earned from the Fugger forests, among the largest privately-owned forests in Germany. But the forests are threatened by acid rain.

The Foundation had no great trouble restoring, enlarging and beautifying the Fuggerei after the ravages of the 30 Years War and then again after World War II.

But now it has to go out of its way to ensure the survival of a housing complex that has for centuries been a major part of Germany's cultural and social heritage.

"To thank the Good Lord for the bounty bestowed on them and in a spirit of noble generosity" the Fugger brothers Ulrich, Georg and Jakob in 1519 donated the first 106 fully furnished houses "to their industrious but poor fellow citizens."

To this day, applicants for a Fuggerei home must be Catholic and "impoverished due to no fault of their own."

Their income must not exceed DM 2,000. Understandably, the waiting list is long. Successful applicants — childless couples with the husband no younger than 55 — pay only a token rent of DM1.72 a year. This is the rent laid down in

1573 when it was based on the Rhineland guilder. It has never been changed.

Inhabitants do, however, have to pay a surcharge of DM25 for such new-fangled public services as refuse disposal, sewerage, water and street cleaning.

A "pious and honourable lifestyle" and cleanliness rank at the top of the community regulations.

Occupants are not allowed dogs. They're not allowed to dirty the premises by feeding birds.

They cannot park cars or install outside television aerials. They are also forbidden to bleach and dry laundry in the front yard, use loudspeakers at night or chop wood indoors.

The 1957 regulations, which are still in force, are a mockery of modern laws for the protection of tenants. They have a right to evict anybody and, unless he moves out within three days of receiving an eviction notice, to remove his or her possessions.

In return for virtually free housing in simple but cosy surroundings, the tenants must attend the Fuggerei church every morning to pray for the souls of the donors.

To this day, social welfare remains one of the major principles.

A woman whose husband has died is

given a smaller "widow's" pension of only one mark a year.

The compound is visited by once a week and has a resident.

But the Fuggerei's own which had running water as late as 1638, has disappeared. So has the "cabin" where people with syphilis were treated — in some cases success with an extract made from guaiacum wood.

Another thing that has disappeared is the 1731 school where a teacher had 180 children simultaneously in the small play of 15 gulden and a rye.

Every home still has its door; the inside walls and wood panelled, and the ceiling is made of wood. The living stove was designed to be free of the kitchen. There is a serving hatch between the kitchen and the living room.

The toilet, a portable chamber pot, was in the kitchen. The tainer was emptied into the street and got dark.

House No. 13 (the Fuggerei first to introduce numbered houses) is the only one in its original state.

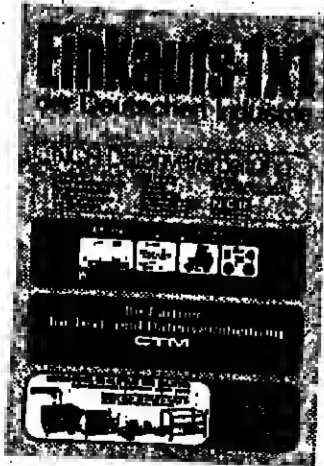
A pamphlet for visitors says: "We show you here is not meant for entertainment." The pamphlet says that the idea was to show the visitor that the life of simple centuries ago — a life that brought comfort thanks to Germany's pitifulists: the Fuggerei.

Karl Stadler
(Kölnische Stadt-Anzeiger)



No loudspeakers at night... the Fuggerei in Augsburg.

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MEDICINE

Searching behind the symptoms for the person who is ill

Most people who see a doctor are not really sick. They just don't know. The average doctor who has been trained to diagnose physical illness doesn't really know what to do with these patients.

He does a lot of things with them. He gets the whole diagnostic machinery going he still fails to find out the trouble is.

It is what Professor Herbert Weiner of Los Angeles, told delegates at the World Congress on Psychosomatic Medicine in Hamburg.

A very fact that this congress (600 delegates from 33 countries) was smaller than the huge meetings of internists and psychiatrists regarding the position of psychosomatic medicine.

discipline that deals with both the body and the mind and their inter-relationship. It is the one that receives the least attention in medical training and in day-to-day medicine.

Conventional medicine (which in the days used to be the same as psychosomatic medicine) tends to exclude psychological factors as unscientific.

But exactly what this role is still has to be researched by psychosomatics, which has developed into an interdisciplinary branch of medicine.

Professor Weiner asked: Why does a person living under particular conditions at a particular time fall ill of a



The much too low assessment of psychosomatic medicine by conventional doctors who concentrate entirely on the body is grotesquely incommensurate with the growing importance of psychosomatics.

For one thing, the classical psychosomatic disorders (anorexia, chronic intestinal inflammation and stomach and duodenal ulcers) have increased lately, the congress was told. And, for another, psychosomatic medicine has greatly extended its range of research and treatment.

Today's psychosomatics goes a step further by delving into the effects of physical illness on the psyche. A wide variety of physical ailments ranging from high blood pressure, coronary disorders to cancer are now understood as breakdowns of regulating mechanisms in which psychological factors could play a role.

But exactly what this role is still has to be researched by psychosomatics, which has developed into an interdisciplinary branch of medicine.

Professor Weiner asked: Why does a person living under particular conditions at a particular time fall ill of a

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

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Warning over increase in child addicts

Drug addiction among children is increasing alarmingly, according to *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, the official journal of the German medical association.

Heleneg Kehrberg, a doctor at Cologne's children's hospital, says in an article that much of the blame can be laid at the door of families, society and the state.

There are only rough estimates of addiction. But it seems certain that six per cent of people between 12 and 20 regularly take sleeping pills, pain killers or pep pills.

At least one million of Germany's 10 million people aged 25 and under have at least once taken illegal drugs. In nine cases out of ten, the drug was hashish. Of these one million, 100,000 are addicted — 60,000 to heroin.

Kehrberg says children are taking to drugs earlier and the trend is towards harder drugs.

Alcoholism is still one of the main problems. Ten per cent of Germany's known alcoholics are juveniles, Kehrberg says.

Regional surveys show that 28 per cent of 15- to 17-year-olds and 49 per cent of 21- to 24-year-olds drink alcohol regularly.

"The assumption is that there is a steep rise in the number of those who have their first experience with alcohol when aged between 12 and 14," says Kehrberg.

But it is usually after the age of 17 that the situation becomes critical. "This is when group attitudes are aggravated by difficulties in dealing with other people and conflicts with the opposite sex. Loss of a job and the resulting lack of money can frequently lead to social behaviour."

Kehrberg points to the fact that alcohol is cheap and easily obtainable despite laws prohibiting the sale of it to minors. Surveys made by the Anti-Addiction Centre show that children had no problems whatsoever obtaining hard drink in 40 of the 69 shops surveyed.

In most cases, the children are not asked about their age or what they wanted to do with the bottle.

The situation in Britain is different though not much better. There, alcohol is expensive. Teenagers use barbiturates as a substitute.

Kehrberg deplores the fact that children are constantly faced with the use of alcohol in daily life because of what is shown in the media.

Even popular children's books tell about people drowning their sorrows in alcohol.

The addiction problem is becoming increasingly dramatic. At least 1.8 million people are reportedly addicted to alcohol, pills or drugs. This means that there is an addict in one out of five families.

Treatment is still largely unsatisfactory, and the relapse rate is high.

Rosemarie Stein
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 July 1983)

Jochen Aumiller
(Die Welt, 22 July 1983)

MODERN LIVING

We want to fight, not type, say women soldiers

Women soldiers in Nato want to join combat units. They want to get away from nursing and office work.

This news of military frustration emerged at a meeting in Brussels of 33 women officers, ten of them generals.

There are 250,000 women soldiers in Nato, or five per cent. The great majority, 170,000, are American.

Germany has only women doctors in uniform. Other women in the Bundeswehr are civilians. Italy, Luxembourg and Spain have no women in the military services.

Some of the 16 member nations of the alliance already train women in the handling of small arms. Some serve aboard naval vessels while others serve as aircraft pilots and navigators.

Though some of these women are mi-

Village tries to stop Ali from being deported

A whole Palatine village, Hohenbieten (pop. 450), has tried in vain to prevent the deportation of a 23-year-old Turk, Naci Damir.

Damir thinks that he would become the target of "Grey Wolves" killer commandos back in Turkey.

A Kaiserlautern court turned down the application of a couple who wanted to adopt him because, as the court put it, there was "no natural parent-child relationship."

Since this was already a ruling on an appeal, the last resort now is to make a bid for a new asylum hearing. The first hearing ruled against him.

Damir, whom the villagers affectionately call "Ali," has made national headlines because of the backing he has received from the villagers amid an atmosphere of rising hostility towards foreigners.

Not only did the villagers support his bid to stay in the country (he arrived here in 1980 and initially stayed with his brother); they even formed a citizens' action group and collected more than 1,000 signatures.

One of the group members is Red Cross worker Karl Krenrich who has asked the Red Cross to intervene on humanitarian grounds.

The action group also sent petitions to the governments in Rhineland-Palatinate and in Bonn plus the parties in the Bundestag.

Damir has made friends with a son of the couple who want to adopt him. He now lives with the family.

Says the wife: "We're back to square one now that our applicant has been turned down and we don't know how things are to go on."

The reason the Administrative Court gave for turning down his asylum application (he belongs to an Islamic minority group, the Alawites) and that the military regime in Turkey had restored law and order and that the Grey Wolves had been curbed.

The court rules out an appeal.

Günter Hoffenstein

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 July 1983)



Literary academy graduates, few of them are later given top positions.

Says Canadian Colonel Anne-Marie Belanger, who chaired the conference: "Male resistance is naturally a major obstacle, and we are trying to overcome this with seminars and workshops."

The number of applications by women wanting to serve in the armed forces rises commensurately with the career prospects offered to them, Colonel Belanger said.

According to Dutch Lieutenant Elizabeth Koot, the armed forces' attitude towards the integration of women reflects the individual countries' willingness to improve the status of women generally.

The Scandinavian countries, which are traditionally more liberal, treat women soldiers better than to the more conservative southern nations.

It is not only prejudice, and sexual molesting that troubles women soldiers, Judy Springer, a computer specialist aboard the American amphibian craft *Mount Whitney*, told a Reuters correspondent during an East Atlantic Nato exercise why the six women on board felt like pariahs.

They are shunned, she said, because the men don't know how to act towards them. The sailors don't dare talk of them for fear of being reprimanded by the officers, and the officers don't talk to them.

Move to make rape within marriage a crime

Hamburg Justice Senator Eva Leithäuser (SPD) is promoting a bill that would make rape within marriage punishable by law.

She says "the defence of sexual honour has developed into a woman's defence of her self-determination in matters of sex."

Because there had been a change of public attitudes, she hoped to get her bill through the Bundesrat.

In 1972, during the SPD-FDP coalition, Hesse failed to get a similar bill adopted.

Hamburg, the state with the highest proportion of women office-holders, supports the move unanimously. It has enlisted the support of North Rhine-Westphalia and Bremen in promoting the bill, and intends seeking support from other state governments as well.

Similar legislation exists in France, Sweden and Denmark.

Senator Leithäuser stresses that the "remaining discrimination against the wife" must be eliminated in line with the principle that "sexual self-determination is indivisible."

The inequality, she said, lies in the fact that the law protects the men's girlfriend or fiancée but not his wife.

This, she says, calls for an amendment of the Criminal Code sections go-

"The boys cannot be uninhibited because the moment they as much as say 'Hello' they are ostracised by their friends," she said.

In 1981, Belgium passed a law making all military positions equally available to men and women. In return, the women must meet the same enlistment criteria and undergo the same training as their male counterparts.

According to Lieutenant Cermen von den Bosche, who represented Belgium at the conference, these stiff demands have reduced the number of successful applicants although more women have applied in 1983 than the year before.

Reuters

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 July 1983)

Auschwitz

Continued from page 11

College and as a visiting professor in Tel Aviv?

He describes himself as a deliberate non-Zionist. He is as impressed as he has been upset by the way Israel has developed.

In 1948 the State of Israel was a historical necessity, but it need not have taken the shape it since had. On this issue he shared the viewpoint of Martin Buber.

"My view of Judaism is a universal one. The future of Jewry is not identical with the place where its cradle once stood."

Several of his books have been published in German by Herder Verlag, of Freiburg. Titles (retitled in German) include: *What Our Masters Taught Us*, *The Voice of Sinai*, *Service to God by the Heart*, and, his latest, *How Our Masters Explain the Scriptures*.

This latest work, published in German in 1982, clearly contains theological dynamite.

Ursula Gieseler

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 12 July 1983)

vering sexual extortion and rape to include wives who have been sexually victimised by their husbands.

She substantiates her move with two experience made in homes for battered women. For instance: 70 per cent of the 2,500 women cared for in Berlin homes said that they had been abused by their husbands, and one in two said that her "sexual self-determination" had been violated.

The same, the senator says, applies to Hamburg homes for battered women.

In a parallel move, the Hamburg Senate is also making a bid to change trial procedures in cases of rape and similar assaults.

Says Senator Leithäuser: "The experiences of women involved in a sex trial should not be aired in public. The victim should have the right to ask that the public be excluded. Victims testifying in court frequently have to answer questions that bare their intimate lives."

She stresses that the exclusion of the public is necessary to "make it easier for the victim to describe her own harrowing experience or listen to other people's testimony."

The existing laws, she says, don't take the victim's traumatic experience into account; they are only concerned with public morality.

Herbert Schütte

(Die Welt, 21 July 1983)

Doctors accuse police of demo violence

A group of doctors has accused police of using excessive force against demonstrators. The group also accused of taking to the periphery of demonstration the "violent hard core."

The charges were made at a conference by a group representing 100 per cent of Berlin's doctors.

They said demonstrators were being treated with violence that fits of rage by the police.

Cases histories of head injuries, broken bones and concussion were given as evidence.

The doctors said that there had been a conspicuous increase in the number of women patients with multiple injuries.

They said one pregnant woman had been kicked in the stomach in a police raid.

They cited the case of a slightly built man who, after being beaten up and had to be taken to hospital with a broken wrist and a number of injuries.

A woman who had helped in a photographic exhibition and in the doorway for a moment, was pushed up the stairs by the police.

When she tried to resist, she was hit on the head with a baton.

The change in the type of injuries, the doctors told, indicates that an unprovoked demonstration rather than a hard core.

Interviews with other doctors, supported the impression that police now increasingly used "peaceful people on the periphery of demonstration rather than hard core."

Most of the injured persons, they said, were dissuaded by police from filing charges on the grounds that they could find themselves with resisting the police.

The doctors also told that there is evidence that police administrations supply the police with lists of injured demonstrators.

The group intends to urge the Association after the summer days to allow doctors to act as mediators between the police and demonstrators and so help to reduce tensions on both sides.

Otto Jahn

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 July 1983)

Dying parents seek a home for children

Gudrun Bröll, 40, is dying of cancer. Her husband, Herbert, 54, has three heart attacks. They would be better off if their two children were adopted.

So they advertised in a newspaper. The result was that only five people were received. None were suitable.

Then the Press took up the story. The family has now been inundated with an avalanche of adoption offers. Bröll has asked applicants to write her then telephone. He has not been able to cope with the flood of calls.

(Abendliche Post, 21 July 1983)

An architect revolutionises skyscraper design by cutting corners

Helmut Jahn, from Zirndorf, near Nuremberg, has made a name for himself in America as the architect who has designed the world's boldest and most elegant skyscrapers.

He has been hailed in the US media as a superstar and as Baron High Tech, some critics see him as the shape of the future.

To come, a precursor of 21st century architecture.

Jahn's career has certainly been an even one in the land of opportunity. He has made it to the top in a mere 15 years.

His father is a school teacher at Munich Tech, graduated in 1965, and went to America as an exchange student in 1967.

He saw one of the world's foremost architects, senior architect and a fellow in Murphy Associates, Chicago, who now trades as Murphy Jahn.

He has designed and built in New York, Dallas, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Kansas, Johannesburg and Durban, 43, is said to have made his home base, Chicago.

Architectural historian Professor Heinrich Klotz describes his work as breathtakingly new. What is so new about it?

He has broken the bounds of the design of skyscraper imposed on him by an earlier German, Mies van der Rohe, 1886-1969, the last head of Bauhaus.

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In place of black, foursquare monoliths he designs unprecedented structures that seem to make a mockery of stress analysis. They certainly run counter to the conventional.

To the Americans' surprise he has given them back something they had failed to appreciate, a piece of American identity.

Jahn's skyscrapers have much more in common with the Empire State Building and American art deco than anything US architects have designed since Mies van der Rohe.

Yet Jahn has no intention whatever of modestly maligning his fellow-countryman Mies, who has lately been accused by US architectural critics such as Tom Wolfe of a "second colonisation of America."

"Mies exercised a strong influence on my career, incredible though it may seem," he says. "His designs were aesthetic, formally ambitious, and not just pragmatic, as is claimed nowadays."

"Mies deliberately set out to design boxes as a reaction to the architecture of his day."

Jahn claims to do much the same. He too bases his work on a reaction to what

already exists and aims to arrive at a new statement on the age in which he lives.

The Pompidou Centre in Paris is, as he sees it, a deterrent example of a statement of technology. It is a building in which technology is an end in itself and in which the idea of architecture has been neglected.

The same framework has to suffice for all functions. He describes his own, entirely different approach, which sounds much more functional, as follows:

The building must be designed in accordance with the hierarchy of different functions for the individual rooms. Yet at the same time it must correspond to existing buildings nearby.

Architects can learn a great deal from old buildings about how to achieve both objectives.

Jahn is convinced architecture ought to interpret certain relationships. Opposing the distinction between modernists and post-modernists he attempts to arrive at a synthesis.

The Xerox Center in Chicago is an example of his bid to break out of Mies van der Rohe's box. It stands virtually side by side with a famous group of buildings designed by Mies.

Jahn refuses to accept Mies's cult of rectangular corners. He cuts out corners entirely. His 42-storey Xerox tower is rounded in striking contrast to the surrounding boxes.

In later designs Jahn develops his approach further. His towers grow more slender the higher they go, with sharp edges graduated.

The smooth plate glass is also lent structure by using glass in various shades, interrupted by projections, as at One, South Wacker, Chicago.

It may also be bent into a wave-like formation by horizontal indentations, as in the North Western Terminal project, also in Chicago.

The State of Illinois Center's plate glass is graduated, bevelled and arranged in a 90° bay, departing even further from the box design.

Conventional flat roofs are also replaced: by gable roofs, slanted roofs, gigantic upside-down art deco consoles and folded tower helmets (as in the design for the new landmark of Houston, Texas).

Americans are jubilant, talking in terms of a new dimension in architecture and of the most exciting buildings since the first skyscraper was built.

In the quest for explanations for this explosion of form Jahn's references to the hierarchy of rooms or to surrounding architecture will be felt inadequate.

True, the idea of the glass-roofed atrium, the light-filled hall that Jahn extends into gigantic dimensions and even superimposes, as at One, South Wacker, by means of the indented facade rearranges the entire mass of the building.

The portals and entrance halls to which Jahn restores importance and solemnity in keeping with a buried tradition given the sequence of rooms a fresh significance.

The crucial factor is that Jahn does not simply add these features to the conventional box design. He sees them as a challenge to design new buildings to suit them.

He is helped by his go-ahead deter-

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In the quest for explanations for this explosion of form Jahn's references to the hierarchy of rooms or to surrounding architecture will be felt inadequate.

True, the idea of the glass-roofed atrium, the light-filled hall that Jahn extends into gigantic dimensions and even superimposes, as at One, South Wacker, by means of the indented facade rearranges the entire mass of the building.

The portals and entrance halls to which Jahn restores importance and solemnity in keeping with a buried tradition given the sequence of rooms a fresh significance.

The crucial factor is that Jahn does not simply add these features to the conventional box design. He sees them as a challenge to design new buildings to suit them.

He is helped by his go-ahead deter-



Breaking bounds (and clouds, too) ... Helmut Jahn (right) with proposed 82-floor office building. (Photo: AP)

mination to express himself and by what he well realises is a delight in pushing the technical solution to its limits.

This, he says, will be "convention" when it comes to the next building.

Jahn has been greatly helped to part company with the box design by a change in outlook on the part of major US customers.

A few years ago corporate customers preferred anonymous facades behind which the capital and potential of leading companies could develop undisturbed.

Nowadays, says Jahn's deputy, Rainer Schildknecht, from Munich, good architecture has become a matter of prestige for well-known firms.

Speculators and builders have also come to appreciate that money cannot be made by building inexpensive, boring, off-the-peg structures.

If Germany's sad skyscrapers are any guide, it is still too soon to talk in terms of a new self-confidence on the part of leading German companies.

Do the benefits of anonymity and facelessness outweigh the drawbacks to corporate identity of the uniform, unattractive box tradition?

The question has yet to be answered where Germany is concerned, which may well be why Jahn and Schildknecht, whose work has made world headlines, have yet to be given a single commission in their home country.

They have not gone out of their way to take part in longwinded competitions that seem to make sure that nothing too original or, perish the thought, revolutionary is built in Germany.

Yet they have not even been invited to submit designs, not even by the leading German banks whose architectural lack of taste has marred the appearance of one German city after another.

Dankwart Gursatzsch

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